

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BONN 08950 161533Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----113670 171643Z /47

R 161459Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8558
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USBERLIN
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USNATO
USNMR SHAPE

S E C R E T BONN 08950

EXDIS

MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, GW, UR
SUBJECT: BREZHNEV VISIT TO FRG: BERLIN

REFS: (A) BONN 8564 (DTG 091842Z MAY 78);
(B) BONN 8421 (DTG 061258Z MAY 78);
(C) BONN 8838 (DTG 121756Z MAY 78)

1. A WORKING-LEVEL CHANCELLERY SOURCE, WHO HAD READ THE MEMCON OF THE SCHMIDT-BREZHNEV TALKS IN BONN (BUT NOT THOSE IN HAMBURG), TOLD US HE SAW NO REASON TO SHARE SCHMIDT'S RATHER POSITIVE ASSESSMENT ON THE COURSE OF THE BERLIN DISCUSSIONS. WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THAT DISCUSSION HAD BEEN NON-POLEMICAL, OUR SOURCE FOUND NO HINT OF INCREASED SOVIET FLEXIBILITY IN THE
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RECORD OF THE TALKS.

2. OUR SOURCE SAID SCHMIDT'S SENIOR FOREIGN POLICY AIDE, RUHFUS, HAD TOLD HIM THE CHANCELLOR'S CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM--WHICH RUHFUS SHARED--WAS BASED LARGELY ON BREZHNEV'S PERSONAL REACTION TO SCHMIDT'S PRESENTATION. (WE ASSUME THIS IS A REFERENCE TO BREZHNEV NOT HAVING

EXPRESSED CONCERN (REFTELS A AND C) WHEN SCHMIDT OUTLINED FRG POLICY ON BERLIN AND MORE SPECIFICALLY ON THE CITY'S CONTINUED ROLE IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND ON STOBBE'S ASSUMPTION OF THE BUNDESRAT PRESIDENCY). OUR SOURCE BELIEVES THE CHANCELLOR READ TOO MUCH INTO BREZHNEV'S FAILURE TO REACT NEGATIVELY TO THE PRESENTATION. HE NOTED THAT THE MEETING HAD HARDLY BEEN A DIALOGUE WITH BREZHNEV CONTRIBUTING LITTLE TO THE CONVERSATION.

3. OUR SOURCE SAID THERE WAS NO INDICATION IN THE MEMCONS THAT THE SOVIETS HAD ATTEMPTED TO EXPLOIT ALLEGED US-FRG DIFFERENCES. ON THE OTHER HAND, LUECKING TOLD US (REFTEL B) THAT THE SOVIETS SOUGHT TO INCLUDE IN THE DECLARATION AND THE COMMUNIQUE FORMULATIONS WHICH SMACKED OF A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BONN AND MOSCOW.

4. OUR SOURCE CONFIRMED THAT THE 25-YEAR ECONOMIC AGREEMENT HAD BEEN UNDERTAKEN AT THE PERSONAL INITIATIVE OF SCHMIDT.
STOESSEL

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